

Fact Sheet

Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America Regulatory Cooperation Framework

The objective of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America Regulatory Cooperation Framework is to improve trilateral regulatory cooperation among the governments of the United States, Canada and Mexico, with the principle aim of lowering costs for North American businesses, producers, governments and consumers; maximizing trade in goods and services across North America's borders; and protecting health, safety, and the environment.

This voluntary Framework sets out steps to improve regulatory cooperation, where appropriate and feasible, while maintaining each Partner's right to carry out its regulatory functions according to its domestic legal and policy requirements, and is meant as a complement to ongoing regulatory cooperation through existing mechanisms.

The Framework's three primary goals are to strengthen regulatory cooperation; streamline regulations and regulatory processes; and encourage the compatibility of regulations, where appropriate and while maintaining high levels of health and safety and environmental protection. Listed below are specific proposals aimed at achieving the Framework's objectives.

Strengthen Regulatory Cooperation

- Increase the transparency of the rulemaking process
- Promote good governance by sharing best practices
- Increase information-sharing among regulators

Streamline Regulations and Regulatory Processes:

- Increase joint analysis or evaluation of regulatory issues of mutual interest
- Increase work sharing or information exchange on approaches to implementation
- Leverage existing mechanisms such as the SPP Prosperity Working Groups, North American Free Trade Agreement Working Groups and bilateral and/or trilateral undertakings to anticipate regulatory issues

Encourage Compatibility of Regulations

- Work towards more compatible and coordinated regulatory approaches
- Promote the use or adoption of relevant international standards, as well as domestic voluntary consensus standards in regulations, consistent with our World Trade Organization obligations
- Work to eliminate redundant testing and certification requirements